

A Partnership With:



Introduction

The Urban Construction Initiative (UCI) currently has fourteen localities under agreement to administer their entire construction program. The UCI members include the cities of Virginia Beach, Hampton, Richmond, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Colonial Heights, Chesapeake, Danville and Newport News, and the towns of Blacksburg, Bridgewater, Purcellville and Dumfries. As there has been invigorated interest in the UCI program from localities across the commonwealth, Local Assistance Division (LAD) has been meeting with eligible non-UCI localities explaining the benefits and realities of becoming a member.

The City of Suffolk submitted a resolution of intent to join the initiative for 2015. This resolution serves as a starting point for the transition process which is established by Code. Suffolk will be eligible to enter into the programmatic agreement to join UCI effective July 1, 2015.

Program Accomplishments

The UCI group requested that VDOT and FHWA review the approval process for approving patented and proprietary equipment. Based on this request, VDOT and the FHWA conducted a process review that determined that the current process that VDOT and FHWA are using can be streamlined. Following the process review, VDOT and the FHWA have been working over the past year to establish a new, more streamlined process for approving the use of patented and proprietary items. That new process will be presented early in calendar year 2015.

LAD has continued to hold UCI Workgroup Meetings to develop new ways to enhance communication with our municipal counterparts and to streamline project delivery. This group consists of representatives from seven different localities, VDOT District and Central Office Staff, and the FHWA. Based on feedback from the satisfaction survey, the workgroup meetings were reduced from a monthly basis to meeting every other month. In addition, the Tri-Annual meetings were reduced to meeting on a semi-annual basis to account for the addition of the Local Programs Workshop to the annual calendar. In addition to preparing the agendas for the UCI Semi-Annual Meetings, the Workgroup continues to focus

efforts on completing goals identified in the UCI Strategic Goals. The intent of these strategic and programmatic goals are focused on increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the UCI. While several of the goals are on-going items, the group did complete four of the nine goals in FY2014. One of the items that the workgroup completed was creating a VDOT project development review timeline. This timeline lists local and VDOT timeframes for reviews and submittals for federal and state funded projects. This will aid in the establishment of detailed schedules for local projects. The timeline is currently being shared with VDOT's Project Management Office and will be posted on the website for use shortly. The workgroup added two additional goals (1. - Accomplishment Document Expanded, and 2. - Modified Programmatic Agreement). Please see the attached pdf file for the previously established goals.



UCI Goals

FY14_FY15 12-1-14.

In 2012, the City of Virginia Beach successfully demonstrated their ability to deliver state and federally funded projects and became the first locality to qualify under the certification process. This year, VDOT conducted a compliance assessment and re-certified the City of Virginia Beach for five years, as outlined in the UCI Guidance Document. The City of Virginia Beach, VDOT and the FHWA continue to collectively work together to further document and streamline the certification program.

For the 2014 Satisfaction Survey, the UCI Workgroup included additional questions which focused on satisfaction with the availability of local and VDOT staff, training options and opportunities to continue to improve communication between localities and VDOT. Responses regarding program satisfaction from both localities and VDOT increased from previous years with 93% of locals saying that the UCI Program is on the right path. The survey was distributed to more than 60 members of whom 23 responded (14 Local and 9 VDOT). The results also clearly indicated that good communication is still occurring between VDOT and the localities but there is still room for improvement.

Similar to last year, the 2014 UCI Annual Meeting was held as a two day event. This year the event was hosted by the City of Lynchburg. In addition to providing updates on the General Assembly, FY15-20 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and the June Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Meeting, FHWA updates, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), the Urban Conversion Project (UCP), UCI Workgroup Update, and items of interest, we also included a full day of training which included presentations on Patented & Proprietary Products/ Processes, Optimizing Pre-Construction meetings/ Materials, and Prequalified Contractors. Based on feedback in the satisfaction survey, the UCI community will continue to gather in person two times a year in varying locations. The agendas for the meetings will be established by the UCI Workgroup and will have a three-pronged approach: business session (updates of program interest), information sharing (lessons learned/technical), and progress on a specific programmatic initiative/focus area led by the workgroup. A link to the agendas, meeting minutes, presentations and handouts for all previous UCI Semi/Tri-Annual Meetings held since November 2010 can be found at the following link: <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance-firstCities.asp>

Financial Table

As a result of reductions in the urban formula allocations, the commitment of Urban Construction Funds, including reimbursable federal funds and state funds paid directly to the participating municipalities in their quarterly payment, have diminished since 2009. The total financial commitment is shown in the following table in Attachment A:

Goals for Fiscal Year 2015

- Publish new processes for receiving federal/state approval for the use of proprietary and patented products.
- Further define the project delivery requirements for the UCI and UCI Certification Programs and publish the VDOT Project Development Timeline Spreadsheet.
- Provide training and development opportunities to enhance local and VDOT competencies, reduce risk, and improve oversight.
- Continue to find ways to streamline project delivery and oversight.
- Incorporate the UCI Project Development requirements into the Local Administered Projects (LAP) Manual.
- Facilitate developing and implementing the UCI Strategic Goals.

Long Term Vision / Goals

- Continue the VDOT shift to a stewardship and oversight role – much like FHWA

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Attachment A:

URBAN CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE									
Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Summary									
	CITY / TOWN	URBAN CONSTRUCTION ALLOCATIONS		PREVIOUS FUNDING on ACTIVE PROJECTS		PAST PROJECT RECONCILIATION		ANNUAL TOTALS	
		FEDERAL FUNDS	STATE FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	STATE FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	STATE FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	STATE FUNDS
		(for Reimbursement)	(Quarterly Payment)	(for Reimbursement)	(Quarterly Payment)	(for Reimbursement)	(Quarterly Payment)	(for Reimbursement)	(Quarterly Payment)
	FISCAL YEAR 2005	\$2,781	\$2,268	\$54,277	\$29,612	\$6,353	\$26,563	\$63,411	\$58,443
	FISCAL YEAR 2006	\$4,484	\$10,846	\$3,391	\$2,948	\$908	\$1,352	\$8,783	\$15,146
	FISCAL YEAR 2007	\$19,881	\$12,178	\$1,553	\$2,108	\$596	\$760	\$22,030	\$15,046
	FISCAL YEAR 2008	\$17,579	\$19,872	\$3,941	\$19,169	\$155	\$666	\$21,675	\$39,707
	FISCAL YEAR 2009	\$12,234	\$10,096	\$6,513	\$8,852	\$0	\$965	\$18,747	\$19,913
	FISCAL YEAR 2010	\$2,597	\$2,733	\$1,523	\$1,715	\$0	\$0	\$4,120	\$4,448
	FISCAL YEAR 2011	\$4,835	\$1,396	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,835	\$1,396
	FISCAL YEAR 2012	\$0	\$19	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19
	FISCAL YEAR 2013	\$0	\$75	\$800	\$2,427	\$0	\$1,689	\$800	\$4,191
	HAMPTON	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	RICHMOND	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
F	VIRGINIA BEACH	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
Y	CHARLOTTESVILLE	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
2	BRIDGEWATER	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
0	HARRISONBURG	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
1	LYNCHBURG	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
4	DUMFRIES	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	PURCELLVILLE	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	BLACKSBURG	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	COLONIAL HEIGHTS	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	CHESAPEAKE	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	NEWPORT NEWS	\$0	\$41	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41
	DANVILLE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	FY 2014 TOTALS	\$0	\$41	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41
	TOTALS TO DATE	\$64,391	\$59,524	\$71,998	\$66,831	\$8,012	\$31,995	\$144,401	\$158,350
						TOTAL FEDERAL & STATE FUNDS			\$302,751
NOTES:									
1. Figures in thousands (1,000).									
2. Figures shown for FY14 and Previous Funding on Active Projects are based on allocations made in FY14 Program.									
3. Federal Funds are paid to localities on a reimbursable basis.									
4. State Funds provided to localities as Quarterly Payments and are to be used for state funded projects and/or for local match on Federally Funded Projects.									
5. Includes SAFETEA-LU and Local Partnership Funds									